

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 108

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 77—Relative to fall prevention.

[Filed with Secretary of State August 11, 2008.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 77, Lowenthal. Fall Prevention Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the first week of fall each year as “Fall Prevention Awareness Week.”

This measure would urge the California Department of Aging and the area agencies on aging to incorporate fall prevention in their upcoming state and local area master plans and recommend the California Health and Human Services Agency develop standardized definitions and reporting methods that will improve available information on falls. This measure would also recommend that fall prevention guidelines be incorporated into state and local planning documents that affect housing, transportation, parks, recreational facilities, and other public facilities.

WHEREAS, In 2003, nearly one-half million older Californians fell more than once; and

WHEREAS, The risk factors associated with falls increase with age, including factors such as age-related physiological changes; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 20 to 30 percent of older adults who fall suffer moderate to severe injuries, resulting in almost 80,000 hospitalizations per year; and

WHEREAS, The consequences of falling are often life-threatening to older adults, with 25 percent of injury-related deaths occurring among persons over 65 years of age and 34 percent of injury-related deaths in those over 85 years of age resulting from fall-related hip fractures; and

WHEREAS, California spends \$2.4 million annually in health care costs resulting from nonfatal falls; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that a well-designed fall prevention program that includes risk factor assessments, a focused physical activity program, and improvement of the home environment can reduce falls 30 to 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, Best practice fall prevention activities in California include evidence-based programs designed to reduce falls and the fear of falling; and

WHEREAS, A number of programs have been developed to help reduce falls in older adults with proven success; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the first week of fall each year is declared “Fall Prevention

Awareness Week,” and that the private sector and state and local governments promote policies and programs to help reduce the incidence and risks of falls among older adults; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature hereby urges the California Department of Aging and the area agencies on aging to incorporate fall prevention in their upcoming state and local area master plans, and recommends the California Health and Human Services Agency develop standardized definitions and reporting methods that will improve available information on falls; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature recommends that fall prevention guidelines be incorporated into state and local planning documents that affect housing, transportation, parks, recreational facilities, and other public facilities; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.